PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2015
MINUTES

TIME & PLACE:
The Public Arts Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico met at the Public Library, 325 Library Lane, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 4:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:
The meeting was called to order by Sid Bryan.

ATTENDANCE:
Sid Bryan, Tourism
Eduardo Alicea, Art Representative
James Durham, Sierra Arts Council
Jia Apple, Business Community
Juan Fuentes, City Manager

Other Staff Present: Linda Sparks
Visitors Present: Linda DeMarino, Cary “Jagger” Gustin

QUORUM: There being a quorum present, the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:
None.

PRESENTATIONS:
Linda DeMarino with MainStreet Truth or Consequences addressed the Board regarding the RFP for a call for sculpture artists to participate in the Buckhorn Art Competition. The understanding from the last meeting was that she would create a Request for Proposal and then put it out. She explained that the Arts Council then approached her with the idea that the Board consider a piece that they already had in the works, which is Jeff Barbour’s piece. The idea is to use Jeff Barbour’s piece and forego the RFP. The Council will supplement the Public Arts Board’s $4,500 with their $2,500 then we would get Jeff Barbour’s piece for $7,000, which price has already been negotiated with Jeff Barbour. The initial price was $12,700. Linda stated that she has an RFP ready to go out if the Board decides to go that route or use the Jeff Barbour piece. The advantage of the RFP is getting to see a plethora of ideas. The disadvantage is the time frame. It is doubtful that a project can be completed in time for the Centennial Celebration next year. The Jeff Barbour piece is already in place, sitting on our lap and doesn’t have to go through the RFP process.
Jagger Gustin of the Sierra Arts Council began his presentation with an introduction. He is the current chair of the Council. They have funded and/or participated in public art projects from the very beginning of their Board. The first project was the fountain at the Museum, a 7 year project, $100,000. The community had to come up with $10,000. The next project was the children’s hand murals on the Energy Building on Date Street. Following was the Delmas Howe Civic Center panels. In 2009 came the Joy cow sculpture that is on the corner of Main and Pershing. The next one was the Truth monument on the corner of McAdoo and Jones Street. They also participated in the swimming pool art panels now being completed at the T or C Swimming Pool. After the Joy sculpture, the Board decided to buy more public art so they started a fund. They agreed to purchase the Reed Rockets sculpture. Jagger referenced the model of the “Reed Rockets” project that he brought with him. He proceeded to describe it. The sculpture is basically a gigantic wind chime, 30’ tall and 16’ in diameter. It can be turned on and off. It emits a pleasing sound in any wind. The “reeds” would be constructed from stainless steel and the counter weights would be modified oxygen tanks. The packet Jagger handed out includes a description of the sculpture. Also part of the packet is a quote from 2010 for $12,700 from Jeff Barbour for the 30’ tall and 16’ diameter sculpture. Jagger said that Mr. Barbour can scale down the project to fit our budget. He stated that Mr. Barbour has all the materials gathered and the project would take 3-4 months to complete.

James Durham noted that the project is based on river reeds. The title Reed Rockets came about when Steve Green was hoping to attract the attention of the Spaceport Authority.

Jagger added that they had originally thought to put it in front of the old fire hall. Their intent from the beginning was to gift it to the City and the citizens of Truth or Consequences. It can go anywhere; but now it may be appropriate to put it in the new Art Park. The Council has $2,442.96 towards the project and hopes that the Arts Board will partner with them to get it built.

FYE 2016 PUBLIC ARTS PROJECT

After considering the advantages and disadvantages of doing an RFP, the Board decided not to do the RFP and to go with the proposed Reed Rockets sculpture for the Buckhorn Art Park. The City has $4,500 to fund this project and the Sierra Arts Council can contribute $2,442.96 for a combined total of $6,942.96.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

Jia expressed her concern of it being compromised by scaling it down. The size makes it very dynamic. She asked if there were any restrictions like power lines. Linda said the only restriction is visibility, it covering up things behind it. Jia remarked that the nature of the sculpture is that you can see through it. Jia would like to see it done as close to the original size. She is definitely for it.

Other ideas being considered for art at the Park is a mural where the graffiti is currently, art panels and mosaic benches.
Eduardo commented that anything else done at the Park should not distract from the sculpture, nothing should take away from the piece.

Sid stated that anything bigger than 20’ would totally dominate that space. As for production time, the estimated time frame of 3-4 months given by Mr. Barbour provides the most latitude.

In order to structurally secure the sculpture, a concrete slab is necessary. One of the suggestions Linda received for a slab is that when Bartoo is done with a load of cement and don’t have a place to put the excess, that we provide them with a prebuilt concrete form where they can dispose of it.

Jagger said that Mr. Barbour is recommending a guardrail for safety. The guardrail would need a concrete base. Since the existing funds go to pay the artist’s fee, Jagger suggested that the guardrail be in-kind from the City. Juan said the City can do it.

Jagger asked if anyone would like to tour the studio and look at the materials. A tour is scheduled for Thursday at 5:00 PM. Some Board members expressed an interest in doing the tour.

Jagger suggested that we use the Park as it is. The City doesn’t need to spend extra money going in there and tearing everything up. He recommended putting a chain link fence up everywhere there is foundation sticking up. It will serve as a safety barrier and it also becomes an art wall. The sunken room in the back of the lot can be fenced off and that becomes an outdoor gallery. Just become innovative with chain link fencing. Jia commented that people will see the foundation sticking up and wonder what used to be here. It would be good to have some historic information about what used to sit there.

Linda related one of the ideas for the mural on the back wall is to recreate one of the murals in the Buckhorn. Josh Frankel has pictures of the murals in the Buckhorn. It was suggested that James write up a narrative that will tie it all in.

Sid added that an art park is a project in progress. It would be inexpensive enough to have the framework up within a couple of months. People can start seeing it right away. The fencing solves the safety issues. As we grow and change, we can decide what worked and what didn’t and change or improve it. Have something in use 5-6 months before the Centennial so that we have time to make necessary changes. Doing a plan can take years.

Jia asked if there would be a smooth walkable surface. Per Linda, some of it will have different levels, but most of it will be accessible at that one level. Jagger suggested the City can grade a ramp to meet ADA requirements if necessary.

Jagger mentioned that there was a private fundraiser event at the last Art Hop and it raised $430 to buy trees for the Park.
Jia said she really likes the 'wild, wild west' history walk-through, the prospect of having permanent art on a month to month basis, and having the shows for a certain amount of time. She added that we will need canopies for the flyby storms to protect the art.

Jagger envisions an old wooden saloon, like an old western false front that would pay honor to the saloon that used to be there, along with a little bit of history.

After a lengthy discussion and assurances from Jagger that Mr. Barbour will work with our budget, the Board approved the 20’ project concept. The motion was made by Sid and seconded by Jia. The motion passed unanimously. Jagger was asked to get a quote from Mr. Barbour for a 20’ sculpture. The hope is that the quote will come in at $7,000. If it does not, but comes close, the consensus is that we should be able to raise the additional funds somehow. Per Juan, the City will work with MainStreet and the Arts Council for any shortfall.

ADVISORY BOARD TERM COMPLETION/TERM RENEWAL
The 3 members whose terms expired 6/30/15 are Sid Bryan, James Durham and Eduardo Alicea. All expressed an interest in submitting an application for another term on the Board. Per Judy Harris, the Clerk’s Office has had a notice up since April, 2015 for board vacancies, no applications have come in.

TIME, PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, August 17, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. at the Public Library.

ADJOURN:
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

ATTEST:
Minutes were approved on August 19, 2015 on a motion made by James Durham and seconded by Eduardo Alicea, and carried.

Linda Sparks
Secretary

(City Commission approved 8/25/15)